

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Access for Commercial Kitchen Roof Top Exhaust Fans**

**Code:** 2018 Mechanical Code  
**Section:** 306.5 and 306.5.1

**Date:** March 15, 2019

**Question:**

Do the access provisions of Sections 306.5 and 306.5.1 apply to roof top mounted kitchen exhaust fans?

**Answer:**

Yes, Sections 306.5 and 306.5.1 apply to equipment and appliances requiring periodic maintenance. A commercial kitchen exhaust fan is an example of the type of equipment requiring periodic maintenance.

**Follow up question #1:**

What is an example of an appliance or equipment that does not require periodic maintenance?

**Answer:**

A piece of equipment with no serviceable parts, or parts that are not required to have service for their intended life. A common example used is a direct-drive environmental air exhaust fan with permanently-greased bearings. This could be a toilet exhaust fan, for instance.

This interpretation is not insinuating that fans and other equipment would not benefit from some degree of periodic maintenance, but the permanent ladder section of this code section is not being invoked for such equipment and appliances.